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World Missionary Conference

(1910)

MINUTES

OF

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

IX.—MEETING, 29th OCTOBER 1909.

(To be approved by General Committee)

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In London, and within the Church Mission House, on Friday,
29th October 1909, at 10.30 a.m.

Sederunt.

103. The Executive Committee met. Present, Mr. Duncan M'Laren in the chair; with him — Bishop Montgomery, Rev. Prebendary Fox, Revs. Dr. Wardlaw Thompson, Dr. George Robson, Dr. A. B. Wann, A. Taylor, J. H. Ritson, W. H. Findlay, E. Alport Wareham, J. Fairley Daly, E. P. Cachemaille, Tissington Tatlow, Mr. G. Graham Brown, Sir John H. Kennaway, Dr. Herbert Lankester, Messrs. Edward A. Talbot, H. W. Smith, and J. H. Oldham and Kenneth Maclellan, Secretaries.

Prayer.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Prebendary Fox.

Apologies for
Absence.

104. Apologies for absence were intimated from the following:— Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Lord Reay, Revs. Canon Dawson, G. Packer, T. H. Martin, W. H. Rankine, and Mr. R. R. Simpson.

Confirmation
of Minutes.

105. The Minutes of meeting of Executive Committee of 30th June last, being printed and in the hands of members, were held as read, and were confirmed.

Approval of
Suggestions
by Central
Advisory
Committee
re Reports.

106. Mr. Oldham reported as to the work, procedure, and reports of the Commissions. He submitted certain additional suggestions for the guidance of Commissions drawn up by the Central Advisory Committee. The Executive Committee approved of these instructions, which are as follows:—

“1. As the Reports are likely to be read not merely by specialists in the subjects that are being considered, but also by a very wide general constituency, it would seem to be desirable to aim at producing a volume, the text of which, being the main body of the Report, should as far as possible form a continuous story, readable and interesting, while all matter of a statistical or more detailed character should be relegated to the appendices.

“2. The Central Advisory Committee call the attention of the Commissions to the clause in the original Instructions to Commissions to the effect that the Chairman shall be responsible for writing the Report, and earnestly recommend that a large discretion should be left to the Chairman of each Commission to deal as he may think best with the contributions of individual members of the Commission, in order that the Report may have the unity of a book,

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Approval of
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by Central
Advisory
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re Reports.

This suggestion is, of course, not intended to interfere with the right of members of the Commissions to urge that views which, in their judgment, need emphasis should receive recognition in the Report, or, if they are unable to convince the other members of the Commission, to record their dissent from the findings of the majority.

“3. The Commissions are earnestly invited to give particular and careful attention to the length of the Reports. The effectiveness and usefulness of the Reports will be seriously impaired unless they are of such a character as to lead to their being widely read as a whole, and not merely consulted occasionally as works of reference. For this purpose it is essential that they should be kept within moderate limits of length. Moreover, the Executive Committee regard it as a matter of the first importance that the Reports should be issued at a price which will bring them within the reach of missionaries all over the world, and other supporters of missions who cannot afford to pay a large sum. This will be impossible unless the limits assigned by the Central Advisory Committee are strictly adhered to.

“4. While it is desirable that the Reports should be as concise and brief as possible, it is of almost equal importance on the other hand that the main subjects should not be treated in so meagre and bald a manner as to deprive them of any living interest. There should be sufficient fulness of treatment, and, if necessary, quotation, to give to the subject colour and life. In order to secure that subjects of living importance should receive such treatment, it would seem to be desirable to exclude altogether from the Report matters of subordinate and subsidiary importance (even if evidence relating to these has been gathered), or to relegate such subjects to appendices.

“5. The Central Advisory Committee recognise that some of the Commissions may find it impossible to complete the different stages of the work by the dates originally suggested. The Central Advisory Committee, being confident that the members of the Commissions are as anxious as themselves to turn the present occasion to the utmost advantage for the extension of Christ's kingdom, prefer not to lay down any rigid plan, but rather to explain fully to the Commissions the fundamental requirements of the situation, and to leave them to meet these requirements in the way that seems to them most appropriate. The two points which seem to be absolutely essential are—(1) that in accordance with the plan of the Conference, at least the essential parts of the Reports should be in the hands of delegates prior to the meeting, and to secure this it is necessary that they

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should reach the Secretary of the Conference at latest by 31st March, to be set up in type and circulated in slip proof; and (2) that the Reports should be issued to the public at the earliest possible date after the Conference, *i.e.* that they should be ready for delivery not later than the end of September. Since the Reports of eight Commissions will be issued as a complete set, delay in the case of any particular Report will prejudice the usefulness of all, and the Central Advisory Committee, therefore, desire to have the complete and corrected manuscript for final publication by 31st July at latest.

"6. The Central Advisory Committee accordingly earnestly appeal to the Chairmen of Commissions to use every effort in their power to secure these two ends. In so far as it is found impossible to complete the Reports in every particular by 31st March, the working up of appendices with a view to securing complete and exhaustive treatment, and the finishing off of certain sections of the Report can, if necessary, be postponed, and completed after the first proof has been sent out to delegates. On the other hand, it is of the first importance that any such additions and changes be reduced to the minimum, since extensive corrections in the proof (other than the addition of entirely new matter) will enormously increase the cost of publication of the Reports.

"7. The Central Advisory Committee have received from one of the Commissions an inquiry as to whether it might not be possible for the Commission to submit a tentative Report to the Conference, and to restate their conclusions in the light of the Conference after it is over. Having given full consideration to the suggestion, the Central Advisory Committee are strongly of the opinion that, while (subject to the necessity on the ground of expense of making as few corrections as possible in the proof of the Report) there would be no objection to the Commission making corrections in, or additions to, *statements of fact* prior to final publication where this is found necessary, it is desirable so far as any conclusions or recommendations or expression of the opinions of the Commission are concerned, to distinguish clearly between the Reports as presented to the Conference and any change of view to which the Commissions may be led as a result of the discussion at the Conference. They urge, therefore, that the Commissions in the final form of their Report should print the original Report as submitted to the Conference, and add as supplementary matter at the end any additional statement they may wish to make after the Conference.

"8. The Central Advisory Committee suggest that the Report of each Commission should include as a separate section some account of the discussion at the Conference on the subject with which that Commission deals. It does not seem necessary or desirable that the discussion should be reported *verbatim*, inasmuch as the Report of the Commissions is itself based on very exhaustive evidence, and a *verbatim* report of the discussion at the Conference would give a disproportionate emphasis to the views of the particular individuals present at the Conference and taking part in the discussion. The Central Advisory Committee suggest, therefore, that a *verbatim* report of each discussion be taken, and that this be abbreviated and edited by the Editorial Committee appointed by the Executive, in consultation with the Chairman or other authorised member of the Commission concerned."

Approval of
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107. On the report of the Central Advisory Committee and after discussion, it was finally agreed that the Reports should be issued in nine volumes, and should be published at the price of 18s. net, and 3s. 6d. per volume; further, that there should be a special subscription price of 12s. net for orders addressed to headquarters received prior to the close of the Conference, and that the price indicated to the public should be such as to allow of the Reports being sent post free. It was left to the Secretaries to fix what that price should be.

Price of
Reports.

108. The Honorary Treasurer, Mr. H. W. Smith, submitted a financial statement as at 28th October, from which it appeared that subscriptions intimated to date and other items of income amounted to £2701, and that of this amount £2014, 3s. had been paid to him. The expenditure as at 28th October amounted to £2499, 14s. 11d., leaving a balance due to the bank of £485, 11s. 11d.

Finance.

109. Mr. MacLennan submitted report as to development of interest in the Conference. It was stated that the estimated receipts from the *News Sheet* on the basis of the subscriptions actually received to this date amounted to £283, 12s. 1d., of which there has been paid to the Treasurer £226, 12s. 1d., and that the total estimated payments in respect of the liabilities incurred to date, including the supply of free copies to the press, etc., amounted to £259, 12s. 8d., showing a net profit of £23, 19s. 5d. It was stated that there were already over 3000 subscribers to the *News Sheet*, and that it was expected that this number would be greatly increased.

News Sheet.

Scottish
Public
Meetings.

110. Mr. Maclennan submitted Report on behalf of the Scottish Public Meetings Committee, from which it appeared that plans had been completed for holding about fifty preliminary meetings in the larger towns in Scotland early next year to bring the Conference under the notice of the Church, and that local Committees had been formed in nearly all the principal centres to carry out the arrangements for these meetings. It was further reported that the Scottish Public Meetings Committee propose to make arrangements for a series of about a hundred meetings to be held throughout Scotland during the week immediately after the Conference, with a view to transmitting its impulse to the Church throughout the country.

English
Public
Meetings.

111. Took up consideration of question of development of interest in England. Mr. Ritson reported that at the request of the London Secretaries' Association the English Members of the Executive Committee were invited to meet at the Church Mission House prior to the meeting of the Executive, to consider what practical steps should be taken to make suitable preparation for the Conference among the constituency of the Missionary Societies in England, and that it was felt that someone should be set apart to hold personal interviews with leading laymen and ministers, in order to secure their participation in the Conference, to organise meetings in London and the Provinces as far as practicable, and to further the interests of the Conference in such ways as may seem expedient.

It was unanimously resolved, on the recommendation of the meeting of the English members of the Executive—

(1) That an Organising Secretary for England be appointed to give the whole or part of his time to this work, with an office in London as headquarters.

(2) That the Church Missionary Society be urgently requested to allow Mr. T. R. W. Lunt to give the whole or part of his time to the work of the Conference on the lines indicated, his remuneration being arranged between the Executive Committee and the Church Missionary Society.

(3) That the London members of the Executive Committee be appointed an Organising Committee for England, with power to co-opt additional members.

Dr. Robson and Dr. Wardlaw Thompson were appointed to lay the request of the Executive Committee before the Church Missionary Society, and it was remitted to Mr. Ritson, Mr. Tatlow, and the Secretaries to see Mr. Lunt and lay the proposal before him.

112. The Secretaries reported that satisfactory progress had been made with arrangements for interesting the Press in the work of preparation for the Conference; that Reuter's agency had agreed to receive and distribute information regarding the progress of the work; that a number of graduates of Oxford University, and others, had kindly agreed to write articles for the leading daily and weekly newspapers and monthly magazines; and that in Scotland arrangements had been concluded whereby the Provincial Press would be kept regularly supplied with items of news regarding the Conference.

Press
Campaign.

113. Read letter from Dr. Murray, Master of Selwyn College, Cambridge, proposing that the Committee of the World Missionary Conference should arrange for a day of united intercession. It was agreed that a communication should be made to the heads of the various Christian bodies suggesting that they should invite all Christians to unite in prayer for the extension of Christ's kingdom—in view of the position in non-Christian lands, and the World Missionary Conference. It was agreed that Sunday, 15th May, would be a suitable day.

Day of
United
Intercession.

Prebendary Fox and Dr. Wardlaw Thompson were appointed a Committee to approach the heads of the different Christian bodies, and it was suggested that the American Executive should be asked to act with the British Executive in the matter.

It was further suggested that the various Missionary Societies should also be approached with a view to creating interest in the day of united intercession.

114. Took up consideration of questions which have arisen in connection with the "One World Movement," the printed memorandum and manifesto of which was in the hands of members. After full consideration of the various suggestions made by Mr. Wootton for coming to this country with a view to securing the approval of his proposals by the various Missionary Societies, the meeting directed the Secretaries to cable to him their regret that they cannot accept any of the six alternative courses suggested by him, and that explanations would be offered on his arrival here. The meeting felt that, while the question of unity was under investigation by one of the Commissions of the Conference, it would be very unwise to countenance in any way an approach to the various Missionary Societies with a view to securing their adhesion to the proposals of the "One World Movement."

"One World
Movement."

Report of
Delegations
Committee.

115. On the report of the Delegations Committee, it was resolved to extend to 150 the number of delegates which the Delegations Committee are empowered by the Executive Committee to nominate for the purpose of giving representation to individuals in sympathy with the work of the Conference, and whose presence at its meetings will be helpful, but who cannot obtain representation through any of the Societies which are officially connected with the Conference.

Fee payable
by Delegates.

116. The question of the fee to be paid by delegates having been raised, it was resolved that each delegate be asked to pay a fee of 10s. to cover the cost of supplying proofs of the Reports, Conference Handbooks, and other necessary expenses.

Proposed
Joint
Missionary
Exhibition.

117. Read letter from Canon Rogers, suggesting that a Joint Exhibition of Missionary Literature should be held during the period of the Conference. The Committee decided that it would not be judicious to have the proposed exhibit, in view of the great difficulty of the Central Office taking up the arrangements for a Joint Exhibition by all the Missionary Societies represented at the Conference.

Proposed
Excursion
to Iona
after the
Conference.

118. A letter was read from the Rev. J. Robertson, D.D., Moderator of the Church of Scotland, suggesting that after the close of the Conference the delegates might attend an excursion to Iona, to visit the scenes of the work of Saint Columba. It was agreed to encourage the proposal, and it was suggested that the Friday after the close of the Conference might be a suitable day. The taking of definite steps was postponed till a later meeting.

Proposed
Meeting for
Medical
Missionaries.

119. Dr. Wardlaw Thompson raised the question of the desirability of holding a meeting, in connection with the Conference, for medical missionaries to discuss the purely professional side of their work. The suggestion was favourably received, and it was left to the International Committee to consider whether suitable arrangements could be made for such a meeting consistent with the arrangements already made for the Conference.

Appointment
of Additional
Vice-
Presidents.

120. Mr. Graham Brown raised the question as to whether the time had not now arrived for the appointment of additional Vice-Presidents. It was agreed that careful consideration should be given to the whole subject, and that the matter should be brought up at the next meeting of the Executive Committee,—the Secretaries to bring up the names of representative men from different countries.

121. It was left to the Chairman, Dr. Robson, and the Secretaries to fix the date and the place of next meeting. Date of next Meeting.

122. On the motion of the Chairman, a vote of thanks was passed to the Church Missionary Society for their hospitality to the Committee. Vote of Thanks.

Closed with prayer.

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